In the Claims:

Please amend claim 21 as follows:

Please add new claims 29-34 as follows:

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a hydrophobic starch comprising

attaching a hydrophobic substituent to a starch by a reaction selected from the group consisting of etherification, esterification and amidation,

wherein the starch is a root or tuber starch, or derivative thereof, comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin based on dry substance of the starch;

wherein said starch is from a plant ~~that has been genetically modified~~ having elimination or inhibition of genes that encode granule based starch synthase ~~to have reduced amylose content~~; and

wherein the reaction utilizes a hydrophobic reagent comprising an alkyl having 7-24 carbon ~~atoms;~~ atoms.

22. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 21, wherein the hydrophobic reagent utilized during said etherification is selected from the group consisting of halide, halohydrin, epoxide, glycidyl, carboxylic acid and quarternary ammonium group.

23. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 21, wherein the hydrophobic reagent utilized during esterification comprises an anhydride group.

24. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 21, wherein the starch is a carboxymethylated starch and wherein the hydrophobic reagent utilized during said amidation comprises an amine group.

25. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 21 further comprising attaching the hydrophobic substituent to the starch in the presence of a surfactant.

26. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 21, wherein the derivative of the starch is obtained by hydroxyalkylation, carboxymethylation, cationization, partial degradation, oxidation, or a combination thereof.

27. (Previously Presented) A hydrophobized amylopectin starch product obtained by the process of claim 21.

28. (Previously Presented) A method for thickening a starch solution comprising adding the starch product according to claim 27, to the starch solution.

29. (New) A process for preparing a hydrophobic starch comprising

attaching a hydrophobic substituent to a starch by a reaction selected from the group consisting of etherification and esterification;

wherein the starch is a root or tuber starch, or derivative thereof, comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin based on dry substance of the starch;

wherein said starch is from a plant having elimination or inhibition of genes that encode granule based starch synthase;

wherein the reaction utilizes a hydrophobic reagent comprising a reactive group and an alkyl group having 7-24 carbon atoms, and

wherein the reactive group is a halide, halohydrin, epoxide, glycidyl or quaternary ammonium.

30. (New) The process according to claim 29, wherein the reactive group is cetyl bromide, lauryl bromide, butylene oxide, epoxidized soybean fatty alcohols, epoxydized linseed fatty alcohols, allyl glycidyl ether, propyl glycidyl ether, butyl glycidyl ether, decane

glycidyl ether, lauryl glycidyl ether, lauryl phenyl glycidyl ether, myristoyl glycidyl ether, cetyl glycidyl ether, palmityl glycidyl ether, stearyl glycidyl ether, linolyl glycidyl ether, 1-bromodecane, 10-bromo-1-decanol, 1-bromododecane, or mixtures thereof.

31. (New) The process according to claim 29, wherein the reactive group is 1-chloro-2-hydroxypropyltrialkyl ammonium salt, glycidyltrialkyl ammonium salt, 1-chloro-2-hydroxypropyldimethyllauryl ammonium salt, 1-chloro-2-hydroxypropyldimethylmyristoyl ammonium salt, 1-chloro-2-hydroxypropyldimethylcetyl, 1-chloro-2-hyroxypropyl-deimethylsteearyl, glycidyldimethyllauryl ammonium salt, glycidyldimethylmyristoyl ammonium salt, glycidyldimethylcetyl ammonium salt, glycidyldimethylstearyl ammonium salt, dialkylaminoethyl halide, chloroethyldialkylamine hydrogen chloride salt, or mixtures thereof.

32. (New) The process according to claim 29 further comprising attaching the hydrophobic substituent to the starch in the presence of a surfactant.

33. (New) A hydrophobized amylopectin starch product obtained by the process of claim 29.

34. (New) A method for thickening a starch solution comprising adding the starch product according to claim 33, to the starch solution.